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SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

March, 1949

THE FOURTH AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR will be presented next Friday, March 4, at 8 o'clock in the Montgomery Theatre, Civic Auditorium, in San Jose. Allan D. Cruickshank, nationally known naturalist, photographer, and lecturer, will show his color motion picture, "Trails for the Millions." Mr. Cruickshank took the pictures in the vicinity of New York City, where one would not expect nature study could be rewardingly pursued. But his film shows an amazing variety of wildlife and exciting adventure along trails which are within easy reach of millions of metropolitan dwellers. Mr. Cruickshank's skill in imitating bird calls, his ready wit, and his ability at story-telling, all make him a popular lecturer. Of his bird-photography, Edwin Way Teale writes: "For a decade and a half, he has been devoting the resources of an athlete's body and a student's brain to the problems of bird-photography. If ornithologists selected ace bird-photographers as sports-writers choose star football players, Cruickshank probably would be first on the list for the All-American Team."

Tickets will be sold at the Montgomery Theatre on the night of the performance: general admission, 75c; students, 60c.

Also at the theatre there will be on sale a few autographed copies of Helen Cruickshank's new book, "Flight into Sunshine." Folders advertising the book say it is a "spirited adventure story of the experiences shared by Helen Cruickshank and her naturalist husband on their bird-filming expedition into the back country of Florida." The photographs of birds which Allan Cruickshank took, illustrate the book. The price is \$5.00 (plus 13c, tax), of which our Society will receive \$2.00.

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BUTANO FOREST is in immediate danger of being logged off! The miracle is that this primeval forest in our Santa Cruz Mountains has gone untouched until now. This fine stand of virgin redwoods, just north of Big Basin Redwood Park, was purchased by the Pacific Lumber Company in 1945, to supplement holdings in that area. Much of the forest surrounding this stand has been lumbered, and now the loggers are working close to the boundaries of Butano Forest. In response to this threat, Butano Forest Associates was organized more than a year ago. These earnest conservationists, mostly of our San Francisco Bay area, have worked hard to save the trees. Through their efforts a popular demand for the purchase of Butano Forest as a state park is being aroused. Public ownership of the forest not only would save the magnificent trees but would also provide recreational facilities which would alleviate overuse of our present redwood parks. Last year Big Basin Redwood Park alone had over half a million visitors.

The State Park Commission has allocated a maximum of \$600,000 toward the purchase of Butano Forest, provided half of the purchase price is contributed by private individuals or by communities. At prevailing prices for commercial stumpage, the purchase price would be more than a million dollars. Because the sum required to match the state fund is so great and time so short, the Butano Forest Associates are asking the California State Legislature to appropriate, from funds already set aside for acquiring park lands, the full amount necessary for the purchase of Butano Forest. A bill to that effect, #2339, was introduced into the Assembly, January 28, by Assemblyman Richard J. Dolwig, from San Mateo Co. This

bill, and also Assembly Bill #1105 for the purchase of South Calaveras Grove (some of California's finest sugar pines are in that grove) need immediate support. The proponents of the two bills believe that "the acquiring of land for recreational use is a function of the state government: the people through their government should be able to acquire land for common use and benefit, using funds which all the people contribute--namely, the taxes." The present matching provision dangerously delays and may defeat the State's acquiring much needed park land. It is imperative that the Butano Forest and the South Calaveras Grove be purchased now, if the wonderful trees are to be saved from the ax. If you want to help save these forests, write today to the following persons, urging them to act promptly:

Governor Earl Warren, State Capitol, Sacramento 14

Your State Senator and State Assemblyman (see list below)

Joseph R. Knowland, Chairman of State Parks Commission, Sacramento 14

A. E. Henning, Chief, Division of Beaches and Parks, Sacramento 14

Senators: Byrl R. Salsman, Santa Clara Co; Harry L. Parkman, San Mateo Co.

Assemblymen: Richard J. Dolwig, San Mateo Co; Robert C. Kirkwood, Santa Clara Co. (Dist. 28); John F. Thompson, Santa Clara Co. (Dist. 29).

Address both Senators and Assemblymen at State Capitol, Sacramento 14.

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JANUARY 22 FIELD TRIP REPORT. Nine hardy souls surmounted the difficulties of a pre-dawn rising hour and pelting rain, to meet at the College at 6:30 a.m. Would you have guessed that Palo Alto members would outnumber those from Los Gatos and San Jose? Well, the party consisted of leader James Rigby, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Dickinson, Mrs. W. A. Hillebrand, Miss Hortense Berry, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Prusman, Miss Emily Smith, and Wilbur Luick. Three areas were to be visited in the day's birding: Elkhorn Slough in the Moss Landing area, the municipal wharf at Monterey, and Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove. When we reached the coast the sky was clear and blue, a just reward for Jim Rigby's faith in the weather. We continued to have favorable weather until four o'clock, when it commenced to rain again.

The Moss Landing area provided us with some of our best observations of the day. The sun, rising behind us, spotlighted a multitude of birds feeding and resting on the quiet water of the slough and along the muddy shores. It was here that we had a fine opportunity to compare the red-throated loon with the common loon. We could see clearly the seemingly up-turned bill which distinguishes the red-throated from the larger common loon. And grebes were obliging, too. A horned grebe, with clear white cheeks, was seen among several eared grebes whose cheeks looked "dirty" in comparison. There were also dozens of Western grebes here. A Baird's cormorant perched long enough on a piling, to enable us to compare it with double-crested cormorants swimming and diving nearby. A grove of eucalyptus and cypress trees showed frequent movements of black-crowned night herons, as they shifted roosting positions. Other herons at this stop were: three great blue herons, an American egret, two snowy egrets. One of the snowy egrets, searching for food in the shallow water near the bank, would frequently shake one of its yellow feet to stir up possible shrimps (?) in the water. Jim Rigby sighted fifty or more buffle-heads some distance from us, and Mr. Hill's telescope was brought into use. The 'scope later showed a handsome red-breasted merganser with an "auburn-haired" female; also shovellers, canvas-backs, scaup ducks, a female American golden-eye, white-winged and surf scoters, and many ruddy ducks. Of considerable interest was close

view of five gadwalls, two trim gray males and three brown females. Other birds listed in this area were: a few brown pelicans, coots, killdeer, two long-billed curlews, many willets, one greater yellow-legs, many least and red-backed sandpipers, several dowitchers, many godwits, two avocets. A surprise was a flock of dainty sanderlings feeding on a mud flat! A flock of gulls resting on a sand bar proved to be mostly short-billed gulls. All by itself was a Bonaparte's gull with an injured foot. There were a few land birds here: a kingfisher carrying a fish in its bill, an Anna's hummingbird, several pipits, and a Savannah sparrow.

On our way to Monterey we stopped briefly at the bridge over the Salinas River, to view with surprise chestnut-backed chickadee and purple finch in the willows by the river. Driving by Fort Ord Miss Emily brought the caravan to a halt when she spotted a white-tailed kite hovering over a drill area. In the same field meadowlarks were singing.

On the wharf in Monterey Jim Rigby soon spied the most important bird for the day, a Pacific fulmar. This fellow, swimming near the piles of the wharf, was at such close range we could see the nasal tubes on its yellow bill. We soon recognized more fulmars among the many gulls further out, chiefly by their manner of flight. Most of them were all gray, but at least one had white head and neck. From our vantage point on the wharf we had fine views of the gulls, and could identify the following: glaucous-winged, Western, herring, California, ring-billed, short-billed, and the handsome Heermann's gull. As we were about to leave the wharf an Audubon's warbler flew across our path.

At Hopkins Marine Station we walked out on the promontory, and "lunch was served" in the shelter of big rocks while we gazed out to more rocks literally alive with roosting birds, mostly gulls and Brandt's cormorants. Soon we made out twenty black turnstones; then 2 oyster-catchers foraging busily; and finally a surf-bird. But that was not enough: Jim wanted to find a murrelet. After lunch, working back along the shore toward the canneries, we did spot an alcid, but its markings would not conform to Roger Tory Peterson's descriptions of murrelets. Finally there was agreement that it was a California murre, with a blotch of black oil on its breast. Although it was getting late, we continued to look for a murrelet between the Marine Station and Lovers Point, at the same time adding to our list of birds for the day: black phoebe, Say's phoebe, California jay, crow, hermit thrush, robin, Western bluebird, English sparrow, house finch, white-crowned sparrow, and song sparrow-- but no murrelet.

Wilbur Luick

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